

reduced by twenty per cent., and, in consequence, the number of children attending the schools gradually grew smaller, although a great many more were retained than the Government allowance provided for, as will appear from the following:

FISCAL YEAR.	Contract number.	Average attendance.
1896.....	2,531	2,995
1897.....	1,732	2,205
1898.....	1,672	2,272
1899.....	1,678	1,993
1900.....	534	2,000

This year, although no assistance will be received from the Government, the full number of pupils in attendance last year—*i. e.*, 2,000—will be continued in the schools, and it shall be our aim in the future to maintain this number as the minimum attendance.

To do this an annual sum of \$140,000 (\$70 per capita per annum for board, clothing, tuition, etc.) will be required. During the past two years the Catholic Indian Bureau, aided by generous friends, has been able to assist the schools in meeting the expenses entailed by educating pupils in excess of the contract number. Since June 30, 1900, all Government aid has been withdrawn, and, in consequence, the schools are thrown entirely upon the charity of the faithful.

For the present fiscal year the required sum has been secured, with the exception of \$25,000. As this amount will be absolutely necessary to continue the schools until the end of next June, it must be collected without delay. Hence it has been thought expedient to place this appeal in every Catholic family, and to solicit a donation, requesting that it be sent on as soon as possible.

AN EXPLANATION.

In the beginning, our Indian mission schools depended upon contributions from Europe. For many years, however,